

to this case, that the young man had been in the country but a short while, and was at the time exhibiting the physical effects of such a radical change of climate.

“In making the above statements I do not wish it to be understood that I impugn the truth of the statements of Dr. Gonzalez. Durango and Yucatan are two States in the Mexican Republic widely separate, and circumstances governing as facts in the one may not so govern in the other.”

*The Form of the Pupil in Snakes.*—Mr. LOCKINGTON stated that amongst the colubriiform snakes, the Boidæ, a family which has its headquarters in South America, and has representatives in the West of this country, have elliptical vertical pupils, like those of rattlesnakes. At least, this is the case with *Boa constrictor*, *B. eques*, *Eunectes murinus* (the anaconda), *Xiphosoma caninum*, and *Xomolochirus multisectus*. The Acrochordidæ, or wart-snakes of eastern Asia, have circular pupils. The venomous snakes with fixed fangs are usually classed in three families: Elapidæ, Naidæ, or cobras, and Hydrophidæ, or sea-snakes. Some herpetologists unite the first two families. As far as the shape of the pupil goes, they seem to agree. *Naja tripudians*, the cobra, *Naja haje*, the African asp, *Pseudechis porphyriacus*, *Sipedon hæmachates*, have circular pupils, as well as the species of *Bungarus* and *Elaps*. The sea-snakes, so far as examined, have circular pupils. This is the case with the common and well-known *Pelamys bicolor*, with *Hydrophis palamidoides*, *H. gracilis*, *H. nigrocinctus*, *Disteira dumerilii*, and *Platurus fasciatus*.

Among the snakes with movable fangs, the Crotalidæ (rattlesnakes), and among the Viperidæ, examples of the genera *Crotalus*, *Pelias*, *Vipera* and *Cerastes*, have elliptical pupils, but *Causus rhombeatus* (Causidæ) has rounded ones. It is thus evident that the form of the pupil has no relation to the venomous or non-venomous character of the snake.

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AUGUST 24.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Nine persons present.

A paper entitled “On the Fertilization of *Cassia Marylandica*,” by Thomas Meehan, was presented for publication.

The death of Wm. R. Cruick, M. D., a member, August 15, 1886, was announced.